LOUISIANA CHAPTER NOTES:

(This really should have been in the last issue but it is so interesting that we are going to publish it now even if spring is already upon us - Ed.)

Cold, rainy, weather with temperatures 50 degrees or below is now here and our lovely blooming hibiscus season will soon be over. Those who wish to keep their plants over winter will mulch them early in November with pine needles or loose leaves about 6 inches deep around each plant. Then after heavy frosts or freezes and the top has been killed they will cut off the plants at the top of the mulch and add another handful of pine needles. This is all that will be needed until early February when the mulch should be removed and the ground around the plant dusted with chlorodane to keep the crickets away when the leaves first begin to appear. The mulch can then be replaced but kept as loose as possible until growth begins and frosts disappear. Then the plants should be thoroughly hoed and fertilized. It has been our experience that plants which are not hoed come out very slowly due to the packing and wet condition of the ground following the winter rains.

We have had an occasion worth noting this fall. The Louisiana Chapter sponsored a tour of the Louisiana State University experimental hibiscus plots on Sept. 6th. The garden covers about an acre of ground and contains many listed varieties as well as about a dozen new crosses which the University considers worth distribution. The experimental staff, with Dr. Kimbrough in charge, was present to tell about their work and answer questions.

The severe freezes last winter dampened the enthusiasm of many former hibiscus lovers. But it is believed that by next spring many who did not replant this past spring will again be looking for plants. Our chapter members are widely scattered over the state but there are several with outstanding gardens containing many of the newer varieties. One worth special mention and not often seen by the chapter members is the hibiscus garden of Dr. C. L. Attaway of Ville Platte, Louisiana.

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OLD TAMPA BAY CHAPTER REORGANIZED

On Sunday, November 9, 1958, a meeting was held at the Pagano Nursery in Pinellas Park to reorganize the old Tampa Bay Chapter of the AHS. Mr. L. K. Thompson of Bartow and Mr. James E. Monroe of Eagle Lake were present to assist with the meeting. Mr. Monroe presided at the meeting until the present members could elect a president. Mr. Thompson gave a short talk on the history and aims of the AHS.

The officers elected were: President, Mrs. J. M. Wylie; Vice President, Mr. Leon Rutledge; Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. W. J. Evans. The following committee chairmen were also appointed: Nomenclature & Registration, Mr. Bill Cutler; Membership, Mr. Frank Pagano; Program, Mr. Bill Cutler; Hospitality, Mr. Steve Yandik; Publicity, Mrs. Milton Marks, Mr. Charles B. Brandon, and Mrs. O. S. Gladding.

The name of the new chapter will be "Sunset Chapter of the AHS."

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SHOW DATES

May 17th - Tropical Hibiscus - Miami
June 14th - James E. Hendry - Ft. Myers
June 21st - Vero Beach - International Show
August 9th - Halifax Chapter - Daytona Beach
August 30th - Putnam
September 13th - Mid-Florida Chapter - Orlando
September 27th - Jacksonville
October 4th - Sunset Chapter - St. Petersburg
October 11th - Deland

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SPECIAL NOTICE - MEMBERS AT LARGE

This will be your last issue of the Seed Pod unless your dues are paid. Send your check in today.

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